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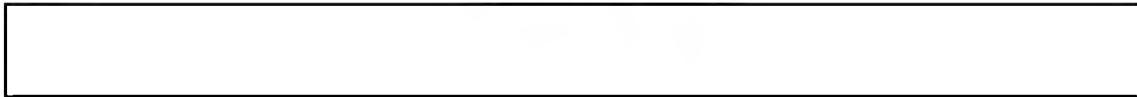


26 December 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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26 December 1963

DAILY BRIEF

*Cyprus: (Information as of 0430 EST) The cease-fire announced last night appears to have ended fighting in Nicosia although there have been some reports of clashes elsewhere on the island.

Both Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders are supporting this latest effort to end five days of bloodshed. The British have agreed to supervise the cease-fire and establish a neutral zone between the two communities.

Early this morning President Makarios agreed to a British proposal that will put UK, Greek, and Turkish forces on the island under British command. Athens and Ankara had agreed to this plan earlier.

Besides providing a force to police the cease-fire, the British plan will serve to prevent clashes between the Greek and Turkish army units on Cyprus and to circumvent unilateral Turkish intervention.

Before the British initiative, the Turkish Government on 24 December had threatened unilateral intervention. This threat was underscored yesterday when Turkish jets flew low over Nicosia and Turkish warships appeared off the Cypriot coast. Cyprus has asked for a United Nations Security Council meeting to protest these military demonstrations.

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*Greece: Early Greek national elections appear probable following the submission of Premier Papandreu's resignation on 24 December.

Papandreu's move followed a parliamentary vote of confidence, which his Center Union Party won 167 to 130 only because 27 deputies of the Communist-dominated United Democratic Left (EDA) supported it. Papandreu had repeatedly stated he would not accept a majority tied to EDA votes.

King Paul then asked Panagiotis Kanellopoulos, leader of the major opposition in parliament, the National Radical Union (ERE), to examine the possibilities of forming a government. Kanellopoulos reportedly declined because of the Cyprus crisis.

The vote of confidence revealed that the ERE remains a cohesive force despite its unexpected defeat in the November election and the subsequent abdication of party leadership by former Premier Karamanlis. Nevertheless, the party does not appear able to muster a parliamentary majority.

Should the situation on Cyprus continue to deteriorate, King Paul may ask the non-Communist parties to form a government of national unity for the duration of the crisis.

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NOTES

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Brazil: The recent appointment of a moderate leftist, Ney Galvao, as finance minister has temporarily allayed widely held apprehensions that President Goulart is on the verge of taking Leonel Brizola or some other extreme leftist into his cabinet. More cabinet changes are in the offing, however, and there are indications that persons such as Brizola may still be on Goulart's list of prospective appointees.

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